



NEWS RELEASE

COLUMBUS DISTRICT OFFICE, STE 200, 401 N. FRONT ST., COLUMBUS OH 43215

Release Date: April 22, 2010
Release Number: COL-FY-10-09

Contact: Shannon Feucht, 614-469-6860 x244
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/oh/columbus

SBA Announces Small Business Champions of the Year And Special Category Winners

COLUMBUS - Every year since 1963, the President has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Thomas K. Mueller, District Director of the Small Business Administration Columbus District Office announced today that 8 small business owners/advocates will be recognized for their achievements as small business owners and champions during Celebrating a Night of Excellence Small Business Ceremony. Special recognition awards will also be presented to the SBA's outstanding participating lenders. Additionally SBA will provide training updates and showcase the positive impact The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has had in Ohio and on small business.

The Columbus District Office 2010 small business champions and special category winners are:

Small Business Person of the Year – Edgar L. Smith, Jr., CEO - OHIO AND REGION V WINNER - World Pac Paper, LLC, Cincinnati, Ohio, Founded in 2004 World Pac Paper is a national distributor of high quality printing & packaging papers and packaging solutions serving the Fortune 500/1000, commercial printers, catalogers, book and magazine publishers, integrated and independent corrugated converters, folding carton/rigid box manufacturers, tube winders, laminators and paper converters and more. As the Ohio winner Edgar Smith, CEO, will represent Ohio during the activities during National Small Business Week in Washington, DC May 23 – 25th.

Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Business of the Year – Robert P. Dakin, President - Commercial Metal Fabricators, Inc., Dayton, OH – established in 1941, CMF is said to be the finest metal fabrication company in the land. Prototype to production, projects big & small, machining big & small and all fabrication services. They work in all materials and all processes to manufacture what the customer needs.

SBA Veteran Small Business Champion – Earl E. Gregorich, Owner, Dayton, Ohio - Tactical Insights is a company that provides business development, training, marketing and analysis services to small companies seeking growth in existing or new internet based initiatives. Earl assisted veteran small business owners during the DHL pullout in Wilmington, Ohio in efforts to start, sustain and grow their business. He also is a Small Business Development Center advisor who promotes veteran owned businesses through training, networking and counseling sessions. He also educates the business community of the advantages of hiring veterans and partnering with veteran owned companies.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award, John Melvin, Director, REGION V WINNER Cincinnati, Ohio - The Clermont Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Small Business Development Center for twenty-six years. The business center serves small business entrepreneurs throughout Southwest Ohio by providing information, one-on-one coaching, counseling and training.

SBA Home-Based Business Champion – Lisa K. Latshaw, Owner, REGION V WINNER Dublin, Ohio - Buckeye Mustard Inc. – established in 2004 she produces a signature fresh horseradish “Sweet and Spicy” Buckeye Mustard made with locally grown and all-natural ingredients. Lisa works with The Economic and Community Development Institute as a volunteer advisor to help develop new microenterprise training for food related entrepreneurs and volunteers her time for panel discussions and classroom sessions.

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – Pamela Mullins, Manager of Supplier Diversity, REGION V WINNER - Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Ohio – The Supplier Diversity Program is the Cincinnati Public School District’s effort to expand opportunities for minority-owned, female-owned, and small business enterprises to participate in our contractual work. The Supplier Diversity department develops the strategy, administers the program, maintains a supplier database, communicates opportunities to businesses, provides training and seminars.

Financial Services Champion of the Year Award – Michael L. Leahr, Business Coach/Loan Officer, Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, - a non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote self-sufficiency and community economic development by stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship among low-moderate individuals.

SBA Women in Business Champion of the Year – Julie Orr, VP Business Banking, PNC Bank, Dublin Ohio, An advisor providing resources to over 500 customers. She educates business owners on how to work with banks and other partners to grow either business and provides consultative advice and direction to bank customers and prospects. Julie is also one of the founding members responsible for establishing the Athena Powerlink of Columbus, a division of ATHENA International. Athena is dedicated to creating leadership opportunities for women. Julie often volunteers her time as a guest speaker for SCORE, SBA, SBDC, WEDO, Women of Color and various women’s groups.

Region V covers the following states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

The Columbus SBA will honor our 2010 award winners at Celebrating a Night of Excellence in Small Business on May 19, 2010 at the Pinnacle Golf Club, Grove City, OH. For more information please contact Shannon Feucht at Shannon.Feucht@sba.gov or view the event flyer located at www.sba.gov/columbus/oh.

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contribution to the small business community.

Additional information about SBA’s programs and services is available at SBA’s Web site: www.sba.gov

##